

RESOLUTION ON THE RETIREMENT OF  
KATHRYN A. MCCARTHY  
ADOPTED BY THE FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES OF  
TUFTS UNIVERSITY  
MAY 16, 1994

*The members of the Department of Physics and Astronomy and the faculty of Liberal Arts and Jackson College of Tufts University, hereby record our warm appreciation for our retiring colleague, Professor Kathryn A. McCarthy. Tufts University has benefited from Kathryn's loyal contributions throughout the past 53 years, a remarkable span of academic, advising, research and administrative contributions to our university community.*

*Kathryn received her undergraduate education at Tufts College, where she graduated Phi Beta Kappa with an A.B. in mathematics in 1944 and a M.S. in Physics in 1946. She began her career as a teacher in the Department of Physics, becoming an instructor in 1946 (the youngest in Tufts history) and continuing until 1953 when she returned to graduate school, receiving a Ph.D. in applied physics from Radcliffe College in 1957, while continuing to teach at Tufts as an Assistant Professor. During this time Kathryn began her work on the physical, optical and thermal properties of optical crystalline materials, which she continues to this day, showing a remarkable ability to sustain her research interests and commitment even through a number of years of full-time administrative service to the Tufts community in the 70s. Particularly after re-*

turning to the Department, Kathryn had a fruitful collaboration with her friend and colleague Professor Howard Sample. Kathryn's professional recognitions include elections as a fellow of the Optical Society of America and of the American Physical Society.

Kathryn has always been popular with the students in the Department's graduate program and she has remained active to this day. Her first Ph.D. student, John Sampson, graduated in 1962. Her two final Ph.D. students, Christine Considine and Paul McCormack, are graduating this May 22nd.

Kathryn has always been a strong believer in the importance of the undergraduate education for premedical students and made a speciality (among others) of the yearly course in introductory physics which most premeds take, namely, Physics 1 and 2. Besides doing a superb job in teaching these courses, Kathryn served for many years on the Medical-Dental Recommendation Committee which coordinates the recommendation side of the admission process for premed and pre-dental undergraduates. She assisted many students in making the transition to graduate training in the health professions.

Unfortunately for the Department, but fortunately for the University as a whole, Kathryn's administrative talents were recognized and she was asked, first, to be Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences from 1969 to 1974 and then Provost and Senior Vice President, a responsibility which she carried out with great success from 1973 to 1979. Her colleagues in the Provost's office have said that she made working for her at this level a great experience and made that often used expression "consciousness-raising" a reality for many during her five and a half years in the post. Baseball, stuffed animals and nerf balls were introduced at the highest levels as a part of the fun times after a busy week! Her

*friendship, support and wisdom continue to be important to all who work in the Office of the Provost. Her successor in the post has noted that Kathryn set a level of professional competency which neither he nor her predecessor were able to reach.*

*In addition to physics research and teaching and academic administration, Kathryn has always sought to apply her talents to the wider academic and professional community with membership and high office in the Tufts chapter of Sigma Xi, The New England Optical Society, the Radcliffe Institute, the New England Rhodes selection committee and the Visiting Committee for Applied Sciences of Harvard University. Kathryn has been a Trustee of Southeastern Massachusetts University, of Merrimack College and of the College of the Holy Cross, where she is Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee. The latter two colleges have recognized Kathryn with honorary doctorates.*

*The private sector has also asked Kathryn for her time and energy. She has been a director of several corporations including long-standing and continuing associations with the Massachusetts Electric Company and the State Mutual Life Assurance Company of America. Kathryn has made a particular commitment to the Lawrence Memorial Hospital of Medford, where she served first as a member of the Institutional Review Committee, becoming a director in 1978. Kathryn was elected Vice Chairman of the Board in 1986 and became Chairman of the Board in 1991, one of the many activities which she plans to continue.*

*For the faculty,*

COMMITTEE

*Allan Cormack  
Allen Everett  
Audrey Hale  
David Weaver*

*Bernice Siegel*

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*Bernice Siegel  
Secretary of the Faculty*